

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system ~~(1)~~ for extracting subsea hydrocarbon fluid comprising at least three discrete subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ for hydrocarbon extraction and a hydrocarbon receiving facility ~~(2,4,6,8)~~ linked by a pipeline network ~~(94)~~ configured to permit:

(a) diversion of fluid from at least one of the said subsea developments selectively to one or more of the said other developments; and

(b) conveyance of fluid from each of the said subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ to the said receiving facility ~~(2,4,6,8)~~.

2. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said pipeline network ~~(94)~~ is also configured to permit conveyance of fluid from at least one of the said subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ to the said receiving facility ~~(2,4,6,8)~~ selectively via at least two alternative routes.

3. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, including~~ comprising a plurality of receiving facilities ~~(2,4,6,8)~~, wherein said pipeline network ~~(94)~~ ~~being is~~ is configured to permit conveyance of fluid from each of the said subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ to any of the said receiving facilities ~~(2,4,6,8)~~ facility.

4. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the said pipeline network ~~(94) includes,~~ further comprises between at least two of the subsea developments (10,12,14,16,18), plural pipelines between at least two of said subsea developments, said pipelines being suitable for respectively conveying different fluids such as hydrocarbon liquid, hydrocarbon gas and water.

5. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any~~ preceding claim 3, including comprising a control means ~~(44) for controlling flows of fluids between the said~~ subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ and between ~~the said~~ subsea developments ~~(10, 12,14,16,18)~~ and ~~the or each~~ at least one said receiving facility ~~(2,4,6,8)~~.

6. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the said control means ~~(44) includes, at at least one of the subsea developments (10,12,14,16,18),~~ comprises a monitoring means ~~(54,68,70,80)~~ for monitoring parameters pertaining to ~~that~~ at least one of said subsea development developments.

7. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the said control means ~~(44) include~~ comprises signal processing means located at ~~the said~~ subsea developments, wherein said subsea developments communicate thereby and control, (10,12,14,16,18) which ~~communicate with each other and can control,~~ at least to a

limited extent, the distribution of fluids around ~~the~~ said pipeline network ~~(94)~~.

8. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 5, ~~6 or 7~~, wherein ~~the~~ said control means ~~(44)~~ is arranged to operate by automatically sensing what items of hardware are in use at a particular subsea development ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~.

9. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein each said item of hardware ~~includes~~ comprises an electronic chip containing identification information.

10. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 5 to 9, ~~including~~ comprising a remote input/receiving device for effecting control of the flow of said fluids.

11. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 5 to 10, wherein ~~the~~ said control means ~~(44) also include~~ further comprises means to calculate the best place to store or dispose of a particular fluid.

12. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~the~~ said subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ ~~includes~~ comprises separating means ~~(60)~~ for at least substantially separating

constituent components of fluid received by the said subsea development from each other.

13. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of the said subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ comprises a manifold connected to said pipeline network; to which pipelines of the network are connected and

at least one retrievable module ~~(22)~~ including having equipment ~~(60)~~ for acting on fluid received thereby; and

wherein said module is docked with the said manifold for fluid connection to the said pipeline network (94).

14. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 3, including comprising a network of power lines ~~(96)~~ between the said subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ and ~~the or~~ each receiving facility ~~(2,4,6,8)~~ for distributing power.

15. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 3, including comprising a network of control lines between the said subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ and ~~the or~~ each said receiving facility ~~(2,4,6,8)~~ for transmitting control signals.

16. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 3, including comprising a network of

chemical injection lines between ~~the~~ said subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ and ~~the~~ or each said receiving facility ~~(2,4,6,8)~~ for conveying chemical injection fluids.

17. (Currently amended) A method of operating a system ~~(1)~~ for extracting subsea hydrocarbon fluid, the system comprising plural discrete subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ for hydrocarbon extraction and a hydrocarbon receiving facility ~~(2,4,6,8)~~ linked by a pipeline network ~~(94)~~ and control means ~~(44)~~ for controlling flows of fluids between the subsea developments and between the subsea developments and the receiving facility, the control means ~~including~~ comprising monitoring means ~~(54,68,70,80)~~ for monitoring parameters pertaining to the subsea developments, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) monitoring parameters at a first subsea development and identifying a requirement for a first fluid type;

(ii) monitoring parameters at a second subsea development and identifying a surplus of the first fluid type; and

(iii) operating the control means ~~(44)~~ to convey a quantity of the first fluid from the second to the first subsea development via the pipeline network ~~(94)~~.

18. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the system ~~includes~~ comprises plural receiving facilities ~~(2,4,6,8)~~ and at least one of the subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ ~~includes~~ comprises separating means ~~(60)~~ for at least substantially separating constituent components of fluid received by the development ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ from each other, the method ~~including~~ comprising the steps of:

(i) at least substantially separating fluid received by the subsea developments ~~(10,12,14,16,18)~~ into first and second fluid types;

(ii) conveying the first fluid type to one of the receiving facilities ~~(2,4,6,8)~~; and

(iii) conveying the second fluid type to another of the receiving facilities.